

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An expandable basket mold for making a basket comprising:
- a plurality of separate mold sections comprising at least a bottom section and a top section defining a contiguous circumferential sidewall extending therebetween between a top surface and a bottom surface of the basket mold; and
- wherein the plurality of separate mold sections are secured together to form the basket mold by a releasable fastening mechanism.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of separate mold sections has a passage defining a throughbore through the basket mold and the fastening mechanism comprises at least a bolt passing through the plurality of mold sections to align and fasten the plurality of mold sections together.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 2 further comprising at least an intermediate mold section sandwiched between the bottom section and the top section.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 1, wherein a first mold is defined by the releasable fastening mechanism securing at least the bottom section and the top section together, and wherein a second expanded mold is defined by release of the fastening mechanism and the addition of at least another separate mold section to the first mold, and the re-securing of the fastening mechanism to form the second expanded mold.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 4, wherein each ~~mold section~~ comprises a substantially planar top and bottom surface defining a portion of the plurality of mold sections comprises a substantially planar upper surface and lower surface defining a sidewall portion therebetween.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 5, wherein the [[top]] upper surface of each of the plurality of mold sections has [[a top]] an upper edge profile substantially matching a lower edge profile of the next adjacent mold section.
7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 6, wherein the [[top]] upper surface of each of the plurality of mold sections is

aligned with the bottom a lower edge of [[the]] a next adjacent mold section and [[the]] sidewall portions of each of the plurality of mold sections of each of the adjacent mold sections together define the contiguous [[mold]] sidewall.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of mold sections comprises at least a passage, which when axially aligned with the passage of an adjacent mold section defines a throughbore in the basket mold for receiving [[a bolt]] the releasable fastening mechanism for securing the mold sections together.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 8, wherein part of the passage in the bottom mold section is provided with a larger diameter defining a countersunk portion into which a head of the bolt may be situated when a nut attached to the bolt at an end opposite to the head is tightened.

10. (WITHDRAWN) A method of forming a basket mold comprising the steps of:

forming a plurality of separate mold sections comprising at least a bottom section and a top section defining a sidewall extending therebetween; and

securing the plurality of separate mold sections together to form the basket mold by a releasable fastening mechanism.

11. (WITHDRAWN) The method of forming a basket mold as set forth in claim 10 further comprising the steps of fabricating each of the plurality of separate mold sections having a substantially planar top surface and bottom surface defining a respective top edge and bottom edge and forming the basket mold by starting from the bottom mold section and aligning the bottom edge of each successive mold section against the top edge of the previous mold section.

12. (WITHDRAWN) A system for making a basket mold including a plurality of structural components for construction of the basket mold, the structural components comprising:

a top mold section and a bottom mold section including;

a body defined by a planar top surface, a planar bottom surface and a sidewall extending therebetween, each body including

a substantially similar cross-section to which a basket component formed on the basket mold is to attain;

at least a passage extending between the top surface and the bottom surface of the body;

a fastening element for insertion through the passage to secure the top and bottom sections together.

13. (WITHDRAWN) The system for making a basket mold as set forth in claim 12, wherein one of the top and bottom sections includes an edge defining a circumferential lower lip portion which in turn defines a circumferential indentation in the respective sidewall of the body for receiving rim stock material. ♦♦

14. (WITHDRAWN) The system for making a basket mold as set forth in claim 12, wherein the respective top and bottom surfaces of both the top and bottom sections are provided with the same area and cross-section. ♦♦

15. (WITHDRAWN) The system for making a basket mold as set forth in claim 14 further comprising a first and a second side blocks spaced at a fixed distance but adjacent the sidewalls of the top and bottom sections and wherein the first and second side blocks are substantially the same height as the top and bottom sections.

16. (NEW) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 1, wherein the contiguous sidewall increases in radius between the bottom surface and the top surface of the mold.

17. (NEW) The expandable basket mold as set forth in claim 16, wherein each mold section is defined by an upper surface having an upper radius slightly larger than a lower radius of a lower surface of the mold section and the lower radius of each successive mold section from the bottom section substantially matches the upper radius of the preceding mold section to form the radially increasing contiguous sidewall extending between the top and bottom surface of the mold.